



JULY 2019-JUNE 2020

Covenant
CHURCH





A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

I will say it! This past ministry year (2019-2020) has been one of the most challenging times most of us can remember. The good news is that we made it through. However, with COVID and the death of my grandson, I for one am ready for a new and better year!

Through it all, the Lord has been very faithful, in my personal life as well as in ministry at Covenant Church. Covenant went into the pandemic in good financial shape and, even though we did not meet in person for worship for many weeks, we finished the ministry year in good shape as well thanks to your incredible generosity. In addition, many of YOU served our community by delivering meals, helping those who could not get out, assisting families with children and many other things both seen and unseen. Together we were also able to help many of our ministry partners (both locally and internationally) with financial support during this difficult time.

I am proud to be a part of this church and thankful for your generosity. Regardless of what comes our way over the next year, I believe that our church family stands ready to meet it in Jesus' name!



Branson Sheets,
LEAD PASTOR

Decisions and Attendance

55

JOINED THE
COVENANT FAMILY

46

PEOPLE BAPTIZED

(15 adults, 6 students,
25 children)

Our online services have been viewed in **20 states** and on **4 continents**.

Prior to COVID-19, we had **878 volunteers** serving the church.

74 individuals led a small group during the Winter/Spring semester at the Winterville campus.

This year we had **6 child dedications** and **6 parent commissionings**.

COVID RESPONSE

Over **2,000 shepherding calls** were made to include an all-congregant check-in during COVID-19.

140 encouragement cards were sent out.

369 life event (accident, birth, death, hospital, illness, surgery) contacts were made.

25 families were helped through the Compassion Fund.

Finances



GENERAL GIVING

\$4,477,170

DEBT

\$677,607

(as of 6/30/20)

GIVEN TO DEBT

\$137,685



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

\$219,095

At our Christmas Eve services, \$219,095 was collected to support three local organizations as well as three international organizations.



In the fall, we also began the Welcome Home initiative. New residents to the local community receive information regarding our church in the mail and are invited to sign-up to receive a welcome packet. The packet contains goodies and coupons from Covenant and local vendors as well as information regarding events in our community. Each box is hand delivered by a staff member or volunteer to welcome the new residents to the community and invite them to church.

Conferences

PURSUE THE PASSION

This year, nearly 1,000 attended the twenty year anniversary of the Pursue the Passion conference with featured speaker Sharon Hodde Miller.



THE JOURNEY

Another first this year, was the Girls' Conference for middle school and high schoolers. Approximately 100 girls attended this event designed to help young ladies take steps in their discipleship journey and become rooted in their true identity in Christ.





Washington

The Washington campus has experienced a wonderful year of growth. The Pastor's Advisory Team added new members and now includes a financial leader, a maintenance leader, a business leader, and a host of really passionate members. We are really excited to see the team come together in structure and passion for the future of the Washington campus. On Wednesday nights we have small groups for the entire family. The night starts with a family dinner and then everyone breaks into small groups. There are three adult groups, one middle school group, and one group for Kindergarten to 5th grade girls. In January we experienced a record attendance of 81 participants on one night! This year we also updated our lobby with fresh paint and new furniture to help make the first impression of our lobby match the warm and

inviting atmosphere our congregation fosters. The Washington campus also extended local outreach efforts. Our Starlight Tree Ministry was a huge success in December. Christmas gifts were purchased by the congregation and the church for nine families in our congregation to include ten adults and 24 children. Starlight also provides an opportunity to build stronger relationships within the congregation. In addition, in an effort to thank essential workers and support a local business during COVID-19, we partnered with a local coffee shop, Perfect Perks, to purchase 400 specialty coffee gift cards. Each gift card was packaged with a note, prayer, and contact information and distributed to approximately 350 healthcare providers at Vidant Beaufort Hospital and the entire Washington police force.



College

College Ministries worshiped with 165 college-age individuals at the Winterville campus this school year, between 30-50 individuals each week. In addition, 122 college-aged individuals attended LIFT this school year, between 50-80 individuals each month. LIFT is a small group for college-aged people that meets at a local coffee shop to worship and build relationships. College Ministries hosted four tailgate engagements at the ECU football games and gave away over 1,200 hotdogs!



Students

Covenant Students had an average of 42 middle school students and 53 high school students attend weekend programming each week. Covenant Students hosted High School Fall Advance (58 high school students in attendance) and Winter Escape (39 middle school students and 14 high school leaders in attendance).





Kids

Epic was a family group activity night where we learned about Jesus in a fun and engaging way.

Chipper, our puppet, was introduced at the Christmas Eve service. Chipper also starred in multiple online videos during COVID-19 to encourage children. Prior to COVID-19, 280 volunteers were serving in Covenant Kids.

Outreach

Outreach and Community Engagement have been involved in communities both locally and globally throughout the year. Eighty-nine children are served weekly through Book Bag Buddies, a program that provides extra food to local elementary students on the weekend when meals are not being provided at school. In December, eighty shoppers purchased gifts at the Covenant Toy Store for 147 children. The toy store was set-up and operated by 172 volunteers. During COVID-19, Covenant partnered with Third Street Catering and local community

members to provide approximately 1,479 meals to congregants over the age of 65. Each meal included an invite to “attend” Covenant online. In addition, Covenant made 503 face masks for Vidant Medical Center. We also packed 200 goodie bags for the Greenville Police Dept. From April 2019 to March 2020, Covenant had eleven short-term international outreach teams with 115 team members. We also sponsored two international internships: one to India for six weeks and one to the Dominican Republic for four weeks.

NIGHT TO SHINE

Covenant was an official host church for this year’s Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God’s love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. On one night, hundreds of churches of different denominations from all over the world came together to celebrate people with special needs! We had 189 guests and over 500 volunteers participate.







4005 COREY RD, WINTERVILLE NC 28590
252.355.0123 252.355.7053

www.covenant.cc



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